



STATE OF DELAWARE
STATE FIRE PREVENTION COMMISSION
DELAWARE FIRE SERVICE CENTER

(302) 739 - 3160
FAX (302) 739 - 4436

1463 CHESTNUT GROVE ROAD
DOVER, DELAWARE 19904

STATE FIRE PREVENTION COMMISSION

Monthly Meeting

October 17, 2006

MEMBERS PRESENT

Kenneth H. McMahon, Chairman
Francis J. Dougherty
Marvin C. Sharp
Kennard L. Pyle
Bob Ricker
Daniel W. Magee

Mike Kernan, Director State Fire School
Willard F. Preston, State Fire Marshal
Sherry Lambertson, Administrative Specialist

GUESTS

Grover P. Ingle, Assistant State Fire Marshal
Richard R. Ward, Assistant State Fire Marshal
R.T. Leicht, Office of State Fire Marshal
James L. Cubbage, Jr., D.V.F.A.
Colonel David H. Wuest
Command Chief Master Sergeant Caroline V. Vennell
Crystal Beach, State Fire Marshal Office

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman McMahon called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

REGULAR SESSION

APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 19, 2006 COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

It was moved by Commissioner Ricker, seconded by Commissioner Dougherty that the minutes of the September 19, 2006 Commission meeting be approved as amended. Motion carried unanimously. Commissioner Magee did not vote due to his absence of the September meeting.

CALL FOR ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS

Chairman McMahon called for additional agenda items. Commissioner Magee added 2007 Governor's Fire Safety Conference and Letter of Complaint. It was moved by Commissioner Ricker, seconded by Commissioner Sharp to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried.

PRESENTATION BY DOVER AIRFORCE BASE

1st Lieutenant Crystal Beach, Colonel David H. Wuest and Command Chief Master Sergeant Caroline V. Vennell of Dover AFB presented an employer appreciation certificate to Assistant Fire Marshal Grover Ingle and the State Fire Marshal's Office. The Air Force Reserve expressed gratitude for all of the support given to Lt. Beach during her call to duty in the military service. Lt. Beach was presented with an achievement medal as well. The Commission thanked Lt. Beach for her service and the job that she has continued to do for the State Fire Marshal.

REPORT OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL

REGULAR SESSION

Agency's Activity for the month of September is as follows: investigations 79- (criminal 43- /accidental 31- undetermined 5-); arrests 18-; inspections 750- (health care 5-/deputy 156/tech services -255 "QAP-334"); complaints-46; plan reviews 484-; PRUF revenue collected (September) \$167,428 year to date \$630,418; total overtime hours worked 301.0-; time off in hours (Deputies) 406.0 (vacation 120.0- /compensatory leave 64.0- /sick leave 132.0- /holiday 90.0- /compassionate 0.0)

Personnel Issues

Crystal Beach will return to work October 31, 2006 from her extended military leave.

The Juvenile Intervention Specialist IV posting closes October 19th and interviews will take place shortly after the closing.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

DFIRS Update

The DFIRS program reporting has fallen behind. Assistant Fire Marshal Ingle is working on the problems at hand. 100% of the companies are still reporting but they are reporting late.

Hardwired Smoke Detectors

Fire Marshal Preston reported that the Hardwired Smoke Detector program is running at the same pace. Bob Borkowski is back on the job and working diligently with this project. Referrals are to be expected in the next few months.

The Fire Marshal's Office continues to work with fire companies and Wake Up Delaware. Fire Marshal Preston would like to see his office work with Wake Up Delaware and not continue as a separate program from his office.

A donation for hearing impaired smoke alarms will be received from Delmarva Power at the end of October.

False Fire Alarms

The false fire alarm program has seen some improvement, but certainly not where it needs to be. Fire Marshal Preston continues to hear positive reports from those who are participating. They see a dramatic reduction in false fire alarms when participating in the program.

Jurisdictional Fire Marshal's Meeting

A Jurisdictional Fire Marshal's Meeting is scheduled for October 25, 2006. No major issues are on the agenda.

Tidewater Utilities

A meeting with the Governor's office, Commission and Tidewater Utilities has taken place. Fire Marshal Preston feels that they are seeing progress. He is looking forward to a reasonable plan of action in a 10-year plan.

Camden County, NJ Fire Prevention Awards

Fire Marshal Preston and Assistant Fire Marshal Grover Ingle attended the NJ Fire Prevention Awards program in Camden County, New Jersey. It was a very nice program and similar to the same things that Delaware is doing.

New Weapons

The Deputy Fire Marshal's have received new weapons. This was done through an even exchange because of previous guns malfunction.

Fire Death

Fire Marshal Preston reported on two fire deaths. Friday, September 22, 2006 a fire death occurred in Harlty due to an electrical fire with no smoke detectors. Another fire death occurred in Claymont with the cause of fire pending and no smoke detectors.

This brings the 2006 fire death total to 9 and one of these had a working smoke detector.

MIRT Team

The Fire Marshal Office has been invited to participate in a full-scale exercise with the Mirt Team on October 28th.

Fire Discipline

Weapons of Mass Destruction Funding – DEMA, State Fire Marshal Preston reported he attended a meeting with Director Turner (DEMA), Jim Cabbage (DVFA), Joe Leonetti (DVFA), Chief Baldwin (Smyrna PD, Police Chief's Council), Assistant State Fire Marshal Ingle and Chief Deputy Fire Marshal Chionchio regarding the funding and appropriate discipline fore the Fire Marshal's Office. It was discussed to have the Fire Marshal's Office receive funding from the law enforcement discipline when it involves law enforcement discipline when it involves law enforcement and from the fire discipline when the funding involves fire related item's. Chief Baldwin will bring this back to the Police Chief's Council for discussion and report back to Director Turner.

ACTION ITEMS

No report at this time.

FIRE MARSHAL/FIRE SCHOOL

No report at this time.

MISCELLANEOUS

No report at this time.

REPORT OF THE FIRE SCHOOL DIRECTOR

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Virginia Schmick

Virginia Schmick spoke on behalf of her husband concerning disciplinary issues from the Delaware State Fire School.

Maintenance Issues/Projects

Director Kernan reported that construction projects are moving along as planned.

Financial Update

The financial statement was included in the information furnished to the Commissioners. There is nothing out of the ordinary to report at this time.

Upcoming Events

Jay Myers attended the EMS Conference in Las Vegas, NV.

Mike Lowe continues to work with the Fight the Dragon exhibit.

Director Kernan has not received any feedback requested for the Life Safety Initiative given to all fire stations in the country.

Biff Newnam has attended planning meetings regarding a full-scale exercise.

Director Kernan attended the annual North American Fire Training Directors Conference in New York State. This is a wonderful opportunity to exchange information with other Fire School Directors of all of the states. He met 43 different directors.

FIRE MARSHAL/FIRE SCHOOL

No report at this time.

ACTION ITEM

No report at this time.

MISCELLANEOUS

Mike Lowe's Fire Safety activity report was furnished to the commissioners.

Kim Robinson Risk Watch report was submitted to the commissioner's. Risk Watch is exceptionally busy with events at this time.

REGULAR SESSION

REPORT OF DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL

No report at this time.

It was moved by Commissioner Magee, seconded by Commissioner Pyle to enter into Executive Session for personnel issues. Motion carried. The Commission entered Executive Session at 11:55 a.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

It was moved by Commissioner Magee, seconded by Commissioner Sharp to go out of Executive Session. Motion carried. The Commission exited the executive Session at 12:01 a.m.

ACTION ITEM

Personnel

It was moved by Commissioner Sharp, seconded by Commissioner Magee to authorize Fire Marshal Preston to promote Kathy Moore to the position of Administrative Specialist II. Motion carried.

Personnel cont.

It was moved by Commissioner Sharp, seconded by Commissioner Magee to authorize Fire Marshal Preston to interview and hire for the vacant Administrative Specialist I position. Motion carried.

It was moved by Commissioner Sharp, seconded by Commissioner Pyle to authorize a lateral transfer for R. T. Leicht within the Fire Marshal's office. Motion carried.

It was moved by Commissioner Sharp, seconded by Commissioner Pyle to authorize Fire Marshal Preston to advertise, interview and hire for the vacant Fire Protection Specialist IV position. Motion carried.

It was moved by Commissioner Magee, seconded by Commissioner Dougherty to enter into Executive Session for personnel issues. Motion carried. The Commission entered Executive Session at 12:44 a.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

It was moved by Commissioner Pyle, seconded by Commissioner Sharp to go out of Executive Session. Motion carried. The Commission exited the executive Session at 3:59 p.m.

REGULAR SESSION

ACTION ITEM

Fire Death Signs

Chairman McMahon reported that New Castle County is going to put up fire death signs across the county.

2007 Governor's Fire Safety Conference

Commissioner Magee and Commissioner Sharp will co chair the 2007 Governor's Fire Safety Conference.

Milford Correspondence

It was moved by Commissioner Magee, seconded by Commissioner Pyle to send a letter to the President of Carlisle Fire Company and invite them to the next Commission Meeting. Motion carried.

Annual Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman

Chairman McMahon called for nominations for Chairman of the Commission. Commissioner Ricker nominated Chairman McMahon for Chairman. Commissioner Ricker moved to close the nominations for Chairman, seconded by Commissioner Dougherty. Motion carried. Chairman McMahon has been reappointed as Chairman of the Commission.

Chairman McMahon called for nominations for Vice Chairman of the Commission. Commissioner Pyle nominated Commissioner Sharp for Vice Chairman. Commissioner Pyle moved to close the nominations for Vice Chairman, seconded by Commissioner Magee. Motion carried. Commissioner Marvin Sharp has been appointed as Vice Chairman of the Commission.

GENERAL INFORMATION

No report at this time.

CORRESPONDENCE

No report at this time.

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

No report at this time.

REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONERS

Chairman Kenneth H. McMahon

Chairman McMahon reported that he attended the Monthly Fire Prevention Commission Meeting, Budget Meeting, County Chief's Meeting, County Fireman's Meeting, DVFA Conference, Meeting at State Fire Marshal Office, Emergency Corps. Dinner, DEMSOC Meeting and NFPA 1720 Meeting.

Commissioner Marvin Sharp

Commissioner Sharp reported that he attended the Monthly Fire Prevention Commission Meeting, Kent County Firemen's Association Meeting and State Chief's Meeting.

Commissioner Francis J. Dougherty

Commissioner Dougherty reported that he attended the Monthly Fire Prevention Commission Meeting, Brandywine Hundred Fire Company Meeting, New Castle Chief's Meeting, Fire Marshal Interviews in Dover and New Castle County Firemen's Association Meeting.

Vice Chairman Willard Betts, Jr.

Vice Chairman Betts reported that he attended the Monthly Fire Prevention Commission Meeting Commission Executive Meetings, Kent County Chief's Meeting, Kent County Ambulance Meeting and SERC Meeting.

Commissioner Bob Ricker

Commissioner Ricker reported that he attended the Monthly Fire Prevention Commission Meeting and Georgetown Fire Department Board Meeting.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

November 21, 2006
Commission Chamber
Delaware Fire Service Center
1463 Chestnut Grove Road
Dover, DE 19904

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Commissioner Magee, seconded by Commissioner Ricker that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry R. Lambertson
Administrative Specialist

sl/